

Application No. 09/928,610

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are pending in the application. Claims 1-32 stand rejected. Applicant respectfully requests consideration of the following remarks and allowance of the claims. In the event that the claims are not allowed, applicant respectfully requests an Advisory Action.

Rejections Based Upon 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1, 4-6, 8-9, 11-13, 16-19, 21-22, 25-30, and 32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,026,078 (Smith). Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the following reasons.

Claim 1 requires in part a communication hub having a control system configured to *switch between* a configuration mode and an operation mode. Claim 1 further requires in part a mode selection interface configured to receive an input *from a user* that selects one of the configuration mode and the operation mode. Smith discloses a hub that is always in operation mode (two types of operational modes- "hub mode" and "station mode"), rather than switching between a configuration mode and an operation mode as required by claim 1.

Even if Smith could be interpreted as having a configuration mode and an operation mode, Smith does not disclose *switching between* the two modes. Rather, the hub in Smith is always capable of determining whether or not a new device is permitted to join the network. In other words, the hub in Smith does not *switch between* a configuration mode and an operation mode, as required by claim 1. In addition, the hub in Smith performs its determination process automatically as a result of hardware signals, such as a phantom current (Smith, col. 5, lines 50-60). In contrast, claim 1 requires a *user input*.

Independent claim 12 and 22 are allowable for reasons similar to claim 1. Applicant refrains from a discussion of the dependent claims for the sake of brevity.

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CONCLUSION

The claims in their present form are allowable over the art of record. Applicant therefore solicits their allowance.

Respectfully submitted,



SIGNATURE OF PRACTITIONER

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